

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Jonokuchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,060,859, in view of Yaguchi et al. (Yaguchi), U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2004/0150359 A1. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yaguchi does not qualify as prior art against this application. Applicants' claimed foreign priority is to JP 2003-204762 (JP 762), filed on July 31, 2003. Yaguchi has a U.S. filing date of January 16, 2004, after Applicants' priority date. Attached is an accurate English-language translation of Applicants' priority document, JP 762. Because all pending claims are supported by JP 762, all pending claims are entitled to the July 31, 2003 filing date. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JTL/jls

Attachment:

Accurate English-Language Translation of JP 2003-204762

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